

**KINGSTON HILL ACADEMY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES**

May 8, 2013

5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Dr. John Nazarian, Ann Kuzminsky, Helen Morcos, Stephen Panikoff, Debra Deion, Johnna Bicknell, Dr. Patricia Wisocki, Lorraine Melillo

Members Absent: Dr. June Groden, Dr. Ellen Nelson, Lisa Davis, Rob Raposo

Recording Secretary: Linda Ollari

Guests: Alison Santerre-Raymond

Dr. Nazarian called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

Dr. Nazarian recommended changing the order of the agenda to accommodate guest Alison Santerre-Raymond so that she could make her presentation first. Dr. Nazarian commented to Alison that the board members would listen to her presentation but would not comment on it at this time. Alison agreed and proceeded with her presentation regarding Special Education and School Configuration/Expansion. Alison provided a handout to the board members and reviewed the items in the handout. Dr. Nazarian thanked Alison for her report; the board members will discuss the report and a plan that may be developed to address the concerns.

1. March 20, 2013 Report

Dr. Nazarian requested a motion to receive the report of the gathering of the Board members. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

2. Financial Report – Helen Morcos

Helen Morcos distributed the financial report. There is \$5 million in Total Assets and Liabilities. Our cash comes from the State of Rhode Island and various LEA's. In a previous meeting, KHA earmarked \$500,000 for school improvement.

The State of Rhode Island will be cutting funding over the next ten years (2012-2022). This amounts to \$42,000 in 2012, \$37,640 in 2013, \$35,806 in 2014, and so on. The formula used to determine the percentage of cuts is based on reduced lunches among other things. The State's contribution this year was \$692,000. In 2014 the State's contribution will be \$654,274. With the new formula, the per pupil cost will decrease. LEA's will be reducing contributions by 6 to 10%. Net income of \$84,000 as of February. Year end is June 30, 2013; KHA expects to break even for the year.

Helen Morcos will submit the budget at the next meeting. There is a \$95,000 deficit projected for next year. Staffing costs will be increased by 5.6%.

Stephen Panikoff commented on the viability of KHA. Children from six towns attend KHA. The per pupil cost varies per sending district. The majority of income is from tuition. Tuitions are not increasing, transportation cost is costly (will spend \$176,000 in bussing next year). There is a gap in State funding, local funding and the increase in transportation costs. The Extended School Year program (ESY) held during the first two weeks in August also requires bussing. Last year the bussing for ESY cost \$3,300 for two students for 12 days (bus, bus driver and bus monitor). Next year the budget does not include ESY transportation.

Helen Morcos commented that she filed a grant application with the Champlin Foundation for a soccer field. Anne Considine who hosts the Groden Center Gala every two years was very instrumental in starting the soccer field initiative.

Helen Morcos announced that the Groden Center hired a Director of Marketing and Development, Antoinette "Toni" Lautieri. Toni worked at YMCA in the Brockton area for eight years. She also worked for Rhode Island Tourism. She has an MBA from Bryant College. She does graphic design. Helen will invite Toni to attend the next KHA Board of Trustees meeting. Deb Deion moved to receive the financial report. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pat Wisocki. The motion passed.

3. Five-Year Capital Improvement – Helen Morcos

KHA needs to submit a five-year capital improvement plan to the State. Our plan will include the soccer field. Our water grant application to the Department of Health was denied. The reason for the denial was that our application included the building expansion, and the grant is given only to existing systems. The Department of Health has two more design grants. Helen Morcos will apply for another grant in the coming year.

4. Charter School Planning Committee

It's unclear what the total number of the committee could be. Helen Morcos will verify with Attorney Chris Little. Postponed to June 19, 2013.

5. Director's Report

On May 9, Stephen Panikoff and four parents from the KHA PTO will be attending Advocacy Day at the State Capitol at 3:00p.m. in the State Room on the 2nd floor to caucus before the legislators meet at 4:30p.m. They plan to emphasize the need to stop cutting funding, the quality of our students, our gains in NECAP, and that parents should have the right to choose a school for their children. On Saturday, June 1, the KHA PTO is having a Spring Fling from 3:00pm to 8:00pm. There will be an auction, bounce house, games, races, etc.

5.a. Assistant Director's Report Regarding Curriculum and Teacher Professional Development

In the absence of the Assistant Director, Stephen Panikoff reported that grade level data meetings are being held to determine the best instruction. There are field trips planned to the Rhode Island State House and to Boston. Science standards are out. Linda Paolillo will send a summary of curriculum incentives to Linda Ollari in the next couple of days to be distributed to board members.

6. Make up of School Days Lost Due To Storms and 2013-2014 Calendar

The make up of eight school days is scheduled as follows:

One day was made up on April 15, the first day of Spring Recess (bussing cost was \$1500). The other seven days will be made up at the end of June. The school year was scheduled to end June 19 but it will now end on June 28. Compass School's last day is June 25, which means KHA will be paying the entire cost of bussing for June 26, 27 and 28.

Stephen Panikoff distributed the School Calendar for 2013-2014. KHA follows the South Kingstown school calendar. There are two holidays that will not be recognized in 2013-2014 as in years past - Rosh Hashanah and Good Friday.

7. Future School Bus Contract for KHA and Compass School

The League of Charter Schools has asked for bids from three bus companies. There are ten charter schools willing to sign contracts with one bus company. More information will be available at the end of June. Of the 180 students at KHA, 120 are bussed. The Board members discussed using taxi service but that would be an insurance and safety risk. KHA has considered offering gas cards to parents who are willing to drive their children to school. Waivers would need to be signed to dissolve KHA of any liability. Dr. Nazarian recommended that Attorney Chris Little look into parents bussing their children and what waivers would be required.

8. Staggered Terms for Members

Helen Morcos will send an email to Board members to ask for volunteers to participate on a committee to discuss and implement staggered terms for members.

Parent Comments/Staff Comments

None

Old Business

None

Adjournment

Helen Morcos moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dr. Pat Wisocki. The motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Next meeting date: June 19, 2013

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